

section thereof; and  
a means for affecting a relative motion between said plurality of blades and  
an associated food item whereby at least a portion of the food item  
is sliced within said interior.

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**Remarks:**

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 3, 8, and 11 to better characterize the present invention. Additionally, new claims 12-17 are also presented to further characterize the present invention. However, the changes should not be construed as an admission or characterization as to the compliance of the originally submitted claims with the requirements for patentability.

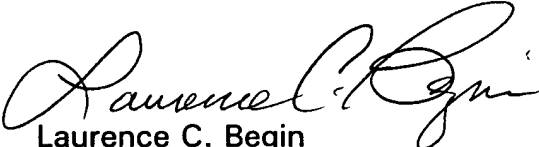
Antecedent basis for each amended and new claim can be found either inherently or explicitly in the specification as originally filed. Exemplary bases for the following amendments can be found as indicated below:

Claim 1	page 2, lines 13-20 and the Figures
Claim 2	original claim 1 and the Figures
Claim 3	page 2, lines 13-20 and the Figures
Claim 8	original claim 1
Claim 11	original claims 2 and 11
New claim 12	original claim 8
New claim 13	page 2, lines 13-20 and the Figures
New claim 14	page 5, lines 15-23
New claim 15	page 4, lines 23-29
New claim 16	page 4, lines 23-29; page 5, lines 15-23
New claim 17	page 4, lines 23-29; page 5, lines 15-23

Applicants also take this opportunity to present a proposed amendment to the drawings, particularly to Figures 1 and 17b. Proposed changes are indicated in red in the marked up Figures provided herewith. Applicants now characterize a food item in the claims and therefore amend to include a food item in the drawings. Antecedent basis for the changes can be found throughout the specification. For example, see page 3, lines 19-26. Also see page 4, line 23 through page 5, line 28. The examiner's ratification of the proposed amendments is requested.

Accordingly, the allowance of claims 1-17 and passage of the subject application to issue is courteously solicited. Applicants have calculated a small entity fee of \$168.00 for four independent claims in excess of three (seven total independent claims), and a check in that amount is included herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayments or charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 04-1131. If the Applicants may be of any further assistance in the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (248) 364-2100.

Respectfully submitted,



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## MARKED UP AMENDED CLAIMS AND NEW CLAIMS

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1. (amended) A food utensil comprising:  
  
a hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall forming an interior [and an outer wall], an open first end and a [closed] second end[, and, a plurality of grooves each longitudinally extending from the first end to a corresponding plurality of points approaching the second end]; and  
  
a plurality of blades extending across said interior in a plane perpendicular to said inner and outer walls for cutting a food item.
2. (amended) The utensil of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of grooves each longitudinally extending from the first end to a corresponding plurality of points approaching the second end and a blade rack slidably engaged with said outer wall for attachment of said plurality of blades wherein each of said plurality of blades correspondingly extends through one of said plurality of grooves.
3. (amended) The utensil of claim 1 further comprising a base fixed to the [closed] second end.
8. (amended) The utensil of claim [1] 2 wherein each of said plurality of grooves with respect to another equidistantly terminates between said first and second ends.
11. (amended) A food utensil comprising:  
  
a hollow body having an inner wall forming an interior and an outer wall, an open first end and a closed second end, and, a plurality of

grooves each longitudinally extending from the first end to a corresponding plurality of points approaching the second end;

a plurality of blades extending across said interior; and

a blade rack slidably engaged with said outer wall for attachment of said plurality of blades wherein each of said plurality of blades correspondingly extends through one of said plurality of grooves[;  
and

the utensil of claim 1 further comprising a food receptacle removably attached to said first open end for holding a food product].

Please add the following new claims:

12. (new) The utensil of claim 11 wherein each of said plurality of grooves with respect to another equidistantly terminates between said first and second ends.

13. (new) An appliance comprising:

a hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall forming an interior;

a plurality of blades extending across said interior; and

a receptacle for holding an item to be sliced, that upon appliance operation is slidably engaged along said outer wall thereby forcing said item against said blades for slicing thereof.

14. (new) A method of slicing a food item comprising:

providing a plurality of blades within a hollow body and across a diameter thereof;  
inserting a food item to be sliced in a receptacle; and  
slidably engaging the receptacle along an outer circumference of the hollow body to bias the item against and at least partially through the blades thereby slicing the item.

15. (new) A method of slicing a food item comprising:  
placing a cylindrical food item within a hollow body of an appliance along a length of the hollow body;  
providing a plurality of blades within the hollow body and across a diameter thereof; and  
sliding the blades along the length of the hollow body thereby slicing at least a portion of the cylindrical food item.
16. (new) A method of slicing a food item comprising:  
providing a plurality of blades within a hollow body and across a cross-section thereof; and  
affecting a relative motion between the food item and the plurality of blades thereby slicing at least a portion of the food item.
17. (new) A food slicer comprising:  
a hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall, said walls defining an interior;  
a plurality of blades within said hollow body and extending across a cross-section thereof; and  
a means for affecting a relative motion between said plurality of blades and an associated food item whereby at least a portion of the food item is sliced within said interior.

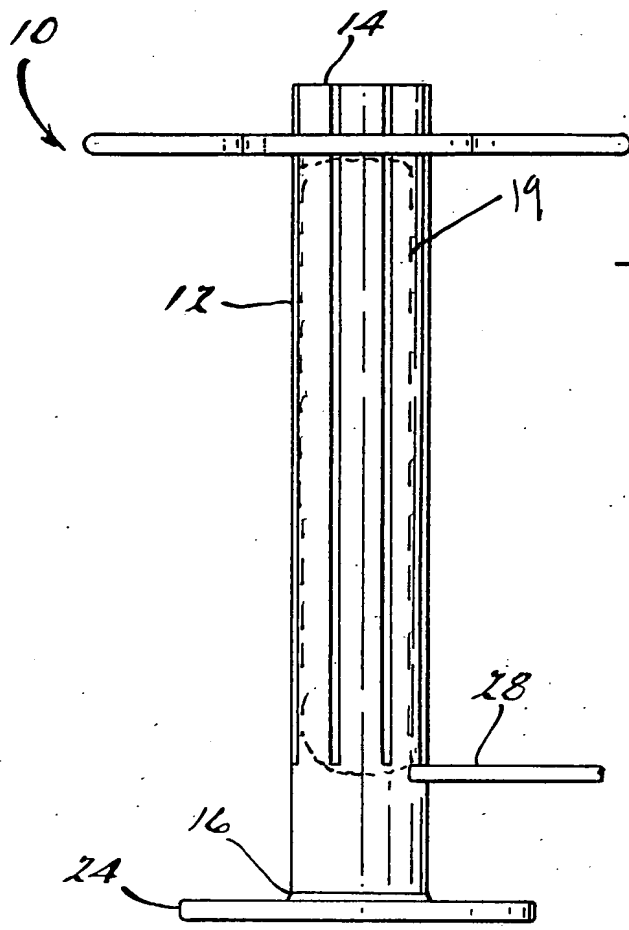


Fig. 1.

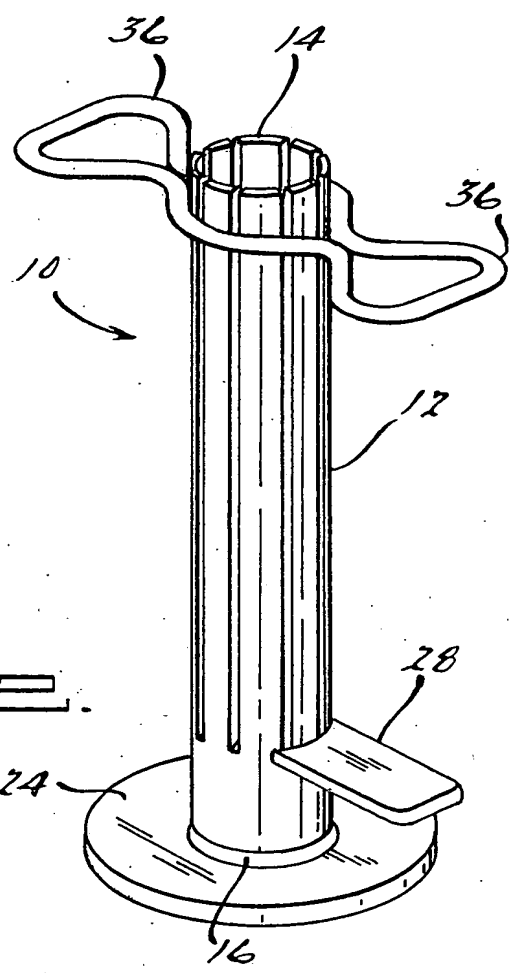


Fig. 2.

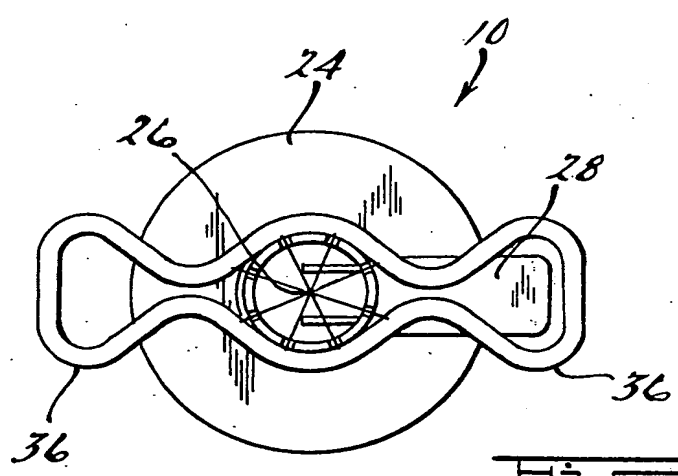


Fig. 3.

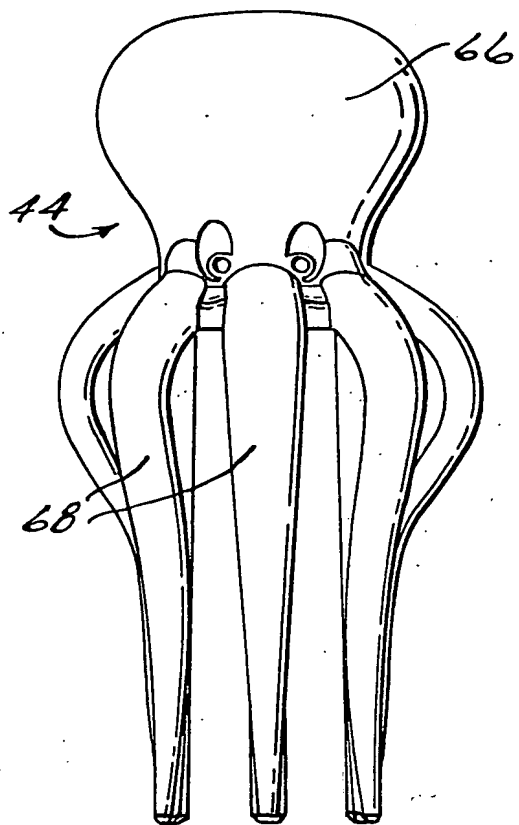


FIG. 17a.

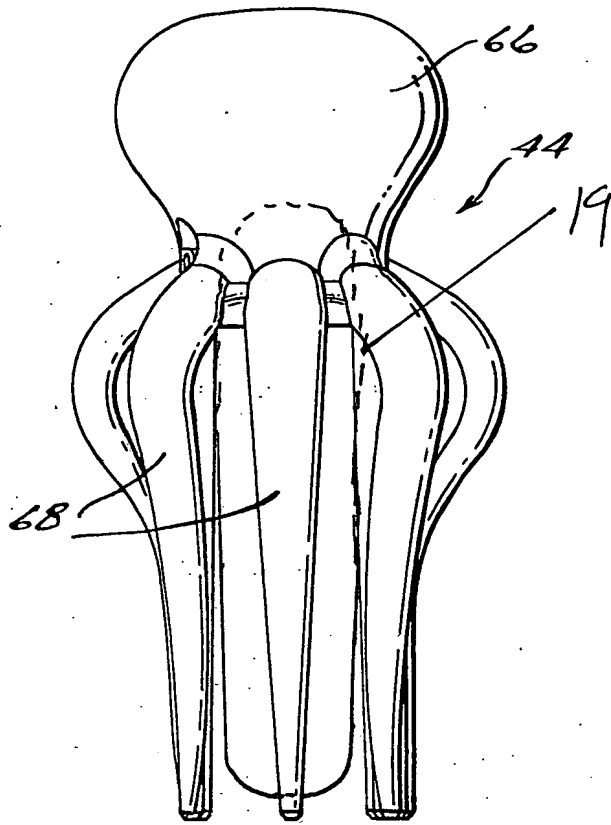


FIG. 17b.

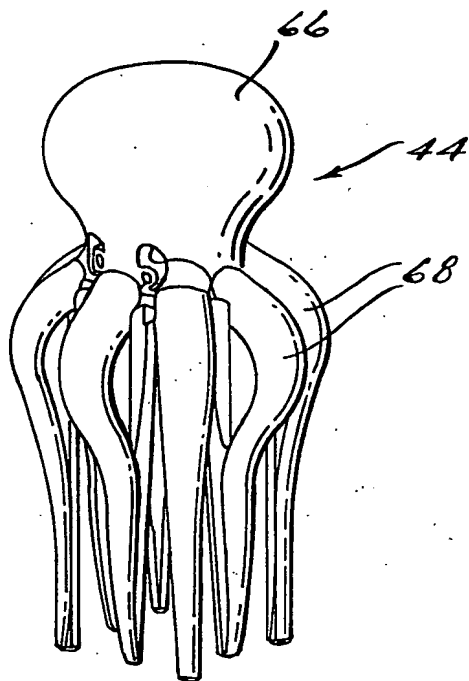


FIG. 18.

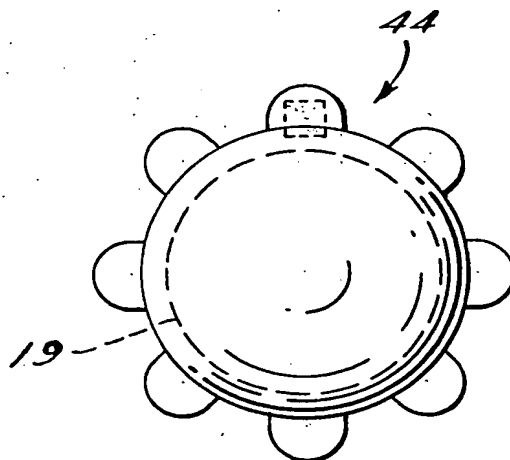


FIG. 19.